

REMARKS

Regarding U.S. 2004/0026851 A1, Applicants still maintain that the element 123 of Figure 10 in this document corresponds to an apertured casing, and not to a transparent casing, as in the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants are somewhat perplexed concerning the Examiner's assessment of U.S. 2004/0026851 A1 in the Final Office Action mailed August 6, 2010.

Furthermore, it is not correct that this document describes three transport cylinders as presently claimed. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1 (and in Figures 2-6), there is not a set of "cylinders" for the transport of sheets but rather a set of rotating arms (3) bearing clips (2), the rotating arms cooperating with suction elements (6) that provide guiding means for sheets (see in particular paragraphs [0045] and [0046], U.S. 2004/0026851 A1). At most two such systems (see in particular Figure 3) are provided, the inspection of the recto of the sheets being made by reflection by a first inspection device (34) placed in the first transport system (32). Inspection of the verso of the sheets, as well as inspection by transparency, are carried out in the second transport system (36) by using respectively a second inspection device (37) and a third inspection device (39). Thus, this first embodiment does not reveal a sheet-processing machine comprising three transport cylinders, as presently claimed.

These comments also apply in substance to the embodiment shown in Figure 7, which differs only from the embodiment of Figure 1 in that the rotating arm assembly is replaced by a "hollow cylinder" with openings (84). Thus, as illustrated in Figure 10, the inspection device comprises only two transport cylinders, and not three as in the present invention.

Therefore, the difference between the presently claimed subject matter and U.S. 2004/0026851 A1 is not only in the term "solid" associated with the nature of the transparent

cylinder, but also in the configuration of inspection modules that includes three transfer cylinders and not only two.

Considering the teaching of U.S. 2004/0026851 A1, Applicants are proposing to amend claim 54 by adding the limitation that the image sensor of the additional inspection device is arranged outside of the transparent casing of the third transport cylinder. This feature is clearly revealed by Figure 2 of the present application and is obvious considering that the inspection is made by transmission and the light source is arranged within the transparent casing third transport cylinder.

Regarding the new cited document US 6,104,890 (Kim), Applicants can first see in Figure 6 that the transparent window (22), provided on the circumference of a cylinder transfer (201a) supporting a dielectric sheet (21), has a limited size that is clearly not sufficient to inspect the entire surface of the sheet conveyed by the transfer roller (201a).

In column 9, lines 59-63, it is also mentioned that a module density control (200) is located inside the transfer cylinder (201a - see Figure 5) to amplify and measure the density of toner image formed on the photosensitive surface of a cylinder (103) placed in the immediate vicinity of the transfer cylinder (201a - see Figure 5). The embodiment of Figures 5 and 6 is a variant of the solution described by reference to Figure 1, where the control module density (110 in Figure 1) is placed facing the photosensitive cylinder (103) outside of the transfer cylinder (102 in Figure 1). In the embodiment of Figure 5, the aim is not to inspect the sheet conveyed by the transfer roller (201a), but rather to measure the density of an image formed on the photosensitive cylinder (103), moreover only locally.

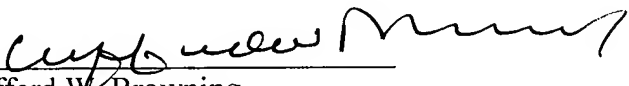
Finally, considering that the density of the image formed on the photosensitive cylinder (103) is made by reflection (see column 8, line 3-12, Fig. 3; column 10, line 15-27, Fig. 7),

Applicants can obviously conclude that the light emitting element 30 and the light receiving element 31 are both positioned inside the transfer cylinder (201a). To the contrary, in the present invention as claimed, the image sensor (44) is arranged outside of the transparent casing of the third transport cylinder (34).

In view of the foregoing, the Kim' document is not relevant to the subject matter of claim 54, either alone, or in combination with the document US 2004/0026851 A1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment to claim 54 under Rule 116, followed by an allowance of all claims 54-107 over all the prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted:

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